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EXAMINER

BURGESS, BARBARA N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/872,300

Applicant(s)

THOMSON, ANDREW

Examiner

Barbara N. Burgess

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-81 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-81 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to Election/Restriction filed April 12, 2006. Examiner takes this opportunity to withdraw the Restriction Requirement after further consideration of the application. Therefore, claims 1-40, 42-81 are presented for further consideration and/or examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-40, 42-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Nagaoka et al. (hereinafter "Nag", US Patent Publication 2002/0180579 A1).

As per claim 1, Nag discloses a method, system, and carrier medium comprising program instruction comprising:

- A first device coupled to a network sending a request to a second device coupled to the network to access a traditional instrument, wherein the traditional instrument is coupled to the second device via an instrumentation bus, wherein an instrument driver is required by the second device to communicate with the traditional instrument, wherein the second device is not configured with the instrument driver, and wherein the traditional instrument does not include inherent Internet capabilities, and wherein the instrumentation bus is not the Internet (paragraphs [0082, 0090-0091, 0093-0094]);
- The second device receiving an instrument driver downloaded directly from the network which is usable by the second device to communicate with the traditional instrument (paragraphs [0041, 0045]);
- The second device receiving the request to access the traditional instrument (paragraphs [0111, 0171]);
- The second device accessing the traditional instrument via the instrumentation bus in response to said request to access the traditional instrument (paragraphs [0093, 0094-0096, 0106]);
- The traditional instrument sending instrument data to the second device via the instrumentation bus in response to the second device accessing the traditional instrument (paragraph [0091]);
- The second device receiving the instrument data sent from the traditional instrument via the instrumentation bus (paragraphs [0093, 0094-0096, 0106]);
- The second device sending the instrument data to the first device via the network (paragraphs [0096, 0111, 0179]).

As per claim 2, Nag discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to said first device sending the request to the second device, connecting the traditional instrument to the second device (paragraphs [0091, 0094]).

As per claim 3, Nag further discloses the method of claim, further comprising displaying on the first device a graphical user interface to the traditional instrument coupled to the second device, wherein the graphical user interface is operable by the user to remotely control functionality of the traditional instrument from the second device (paragraphs [0150, 0178-0179, 0182]).

As per claim 4, Nag discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising the first device receiving the instrument data from the second device via the network; and displaying the received instrument data on the first device (paragraphs [0194-0195]).

As per claim 5, Nag also discloses the method of claim 4, wherein the first device comprises a web browser, wherein said displaying the instrument data on the first device is performed by the web browser, wherein the instrument data is displayed by the web browser in one or more web pages provided by the second device (paragraphs [0113-0116]).

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As per claim 6, Nag discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the request to access the traditional instrument is generated in response to user input on the first device (paragraph [0153]).

As per claim 7, Nag further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the first device comprises a web browser, wherein the request to access the traditional instrument is generated in response to user input to the web browser program (paragraph [0114]).

As per claim 8, Nag discloses the method of claim 7, wherein the user input that generates the request to access the traditional instrument is received by the web browser in a web page provided by the second device (paragraph [0111]).

As per claim 9, Nag discloses the method of claim 8, wherein the web page provides a graphical user interface to the traditional instrument coupled to the second device (paragraph [0086]).

As per claim 10, Nag disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the second device comprises an instrument server, and wherein the second device accessing the traditional instrument comprises:

- The instrument server accessing an instrument driver for the traditional instrument (paragraph [0254]);

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- The instrument driver accessing the traditional instrument via the instrumentation bus in response to the instrument server accessing the instrument driver (paragraph [0257]).

As per claim 11, Nag discloses the method of claim 10, wherein, prior to the instrument server accessing the instrument driver, the method further comprises the second device receiving the instrument driver from the first device (paragraph [0259]).

As per claim 12, Nag discloses the method of claim 1 wherein, prior to the instrument server accessing the instrument driver, the method further comprises the second device downloading the first instrument driver from a third device via the network (paragraph [0041]).

As per claim 13, Nag also discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the instrument server accessing the traditional instrument comprises the instrument server requesting the instrument data from the traditional instrument (paragraph [0086]).

As per claim 14, Nag discloses the method of claim 1 information requesting the traditional instrument to perform one or more actions, and wherein the instrument data is generated from the traditional instrument performing at least part of the requested one or more actions (paragraph [0108]).

As per claim 15, Nag further discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to the first device sending the request to access the traditional instrument:

- The instrument server providing instrument information about one or more traditional instruments coupled to the second device to the first device through the network, wherein the one or more traditional instruments include the traditional instrument (paragraph [0155]);
- Displaying the instrument information about the one or more traditional instruments on the first device (paragraph [0114]).

As per claim 16, Nag discloses the method of claim 15, further comprising: receiving user input on the first device selecting the traditional instrument from the displayed instrument information about the one or more traditional instruments prior to the first device sending the request to access the traditional instrument (paragraph [0195]).

As per claim 17, Nag discloses the method of claim 15, wherein the first device comprises a web browser, wherein said displaying the instrument information about the one or more traditional instruments on the first device is performed by the web browser (paragraph [0113]).

As per claim 18, Nag further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of traditional instruments including the traditional instrument are coupled to the second device via the instrumentation bus, and wherein the first device is operable to send

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requests to access each of the plurality of traditional instruments to the second device (paragraph [0224]).

As per claim 19, Nag discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising the second device:

- scanning the instrumentation bus to detect instruments coupled to the instrumentation bus (paragraph [0090]);
- Said scanning detecting one or more traditional instruments coupled to the instrumentation bus including the traditional instrument (paragraph [0095]);
- receiving instrument information from each of the detected one or more traditional instruments (paragraph [0106]);
- providing the instrument information from the one or more detected traditional instruments to the first device wherein the one or more traditional instruments are user-selectable from the first device using the instrument information (paragraph [0130]).

As per claim 20, Nag discloses the method of claim 1, wherein there are one or more other devices coupled to the network, and wherein the second device is operable to receive requests to access the traditional instrument from the one or more other devices (paragraph [0188]).

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As per claim 21, Nag discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the instrumentation bus is one of a GPIB instrumentation bus, a PCI instrumentation bus, a PXI instrumentation bus, and a serial instrumentation bus (paragraph [0093]).

As per claim 22, Nag discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet (paragraph [0114]).

As per claims 23, 68, Nag discloses a method and carrier medium comprising program instruction, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:

- Scanning an instrumentation bus coupled to a first device to detect instruments coupled to the instrumentation bus (paragraph [0090]);
- Detecting a first traditional instrument coupled to the instrumentation bus, wherein an instrument driver is required by the first device to communicate with the first traditional instrument, wherein the first device is not configured with the instrument driver, wherein the first traditional instrument does not include inherent Internet capabilities, and wherein the instrumentation bus is not the Internet (paragraphs [0082, 0090-0091, 0093-0094]);
- Receiving instrument information from the detected first traditional instrument (paragraphs [0093, 0094-0096, 0106]);

- Transmitting to a network a request for an instrument driver which corresponds to the instrument information, wherein the instrument driver is usable to communicate with the first traditional instrument (paragraph [0039]);
- Receiving the instrument driver from the network (paragraph [0041]);
- Providing the instrument information of the first traditional instrument to a second device coupled to the first device via the network (paragraphs [0093, 0094-0096, 0106]);
- Displaying the instrument information of the first traditional instrument on the second device (paragraph [150]);
- Wherein the first traditional instrument coupled to the first device via the instrumentation bus is remotely accessible from the second device to initiate monitor and control functions of the traditional instrument (paragraph [0094-0096]).

As per claim 24, Nag discloses the method of claim 23, wherein the second device comprises a web browser program, wherein said displaying the instrument information comprises the web browser program displaying the instrument information in a web page (paragraph [0189]).

As per claims 25, 62-63, Nag discloses the method and system of claims 23 and 56, further comprising: receiving user input on the second device, wherein the user input specifies the first traditional instrument; and sending a request to access the first traditional instrument from the second device to the first device through the network in response to the user input (paragraph [0195]).

As per claims 26, 60, Nag discloses the method and system of claims 25 and 58, further comprising:

- The first device sending a user interface specification for the first traditional instrument to the second device via the network in response to the request to access the first traditional instrument (paragraph [0096]);
- Displaying on the second device a user interface to the first traditional instrument in accordance with the user interface specification (paragraph [0105]).

As per claim 27, Nag discloses the method of claim 26, wherein the user interface specification includes one or more web pages displayable by a web browser on the second device (paragraph [0114]).

As per claim 28, Nag discloses the method of claim 23, wherein said scanning detects a plurality of traditional instruments including the first traditional instrument coupled to the first device via the instrumentation bus, and wherein said receiving the instrument information, said providing the instrument information, and said displaying the instrument information are performed for the plurality of traditional instruments (paragraph [0153]).

As per claim 29, Nag discloses the method of claim 23, wherein there are one or more other devices coupled to the network, wherein the method further comprises providing the instrument information of the first traditional instrument to the one or more

other devices, and wherein the first traditional instrument coupled to the first device via the instrumentation bus is remotely accessible from the one or more other devices to imitate monitor and control functions of the first traditional instrument (paragraph [166]).

As per claim 30, Nag discloses the method of claim 23, wherein said scanning, said receiving, and said providing are performed by an instrument server executable on the first device (paragraph [0182]).

As per claim 31, Nag also discloses the method of claim 23, wherein, after said detecting the first traditional instrument, the method further comprises downloading an instrument driver for the first traditional instrument from another device to the first device via the network (paragraph [0173]).

As per claim 32, Nag discloses the method of claim 23, wherein the network is the Internet (paragraph [0113]).

As per claim 33, Nag further discloses a method for providing Internet capabilities to a traditional instrument, wherein the traditional instrument does not inherently include Internet capabilities, the method comprising:

- Connecting the traditional instrument to a first device, wherein the first device includes an Internet server, wherein an instrument driver is required by the first device to communicate with the traditional instrument, and wherein the first device is not configured with the instrument driver (paragraph [0141]);

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- Connecting the first device to the Internet (paragraph [0114]);
- Receiving identification information from the traditional instrument (paragraph [0090]);
- Transmitting to the Internet a request for an instrument driver, wherein the instrument driver is usable by the first device to communicate with the traditional instrument, and wherein the request is based on the identification information (paragraph [0257]);
- Receiving the instrument driver (paragraph [0259]);
- wherein the Internet server provides web pages accessible from other devices connected to the Internet, wherein the web pages include one or more web pages configured for use in accessing the traditional instrument connected to the first device (paragraph [0266]).

As per claim 34, Nag discloses the method of claim 33, wherein said accessing the traditional instrument includes sending command instructions to the traditional instrument and receiving and displaying instrumentation data from the traditional instrument (paragraph [0264]).

As per claims 35 and 36, Nag discloses the method of claim 33, further comprising:

- Accessing the Internet server from a second device connected to the Internet (paragraph [0114]);
- Displaying one or more web pages provided by the Internet server in a web browser on the second device (paragraph [0115]).

As per claim 37, Nag discloses the method as recited in claim 33, wherein the one or more web pages configured for use in accessing the traditional instrument connected to the first device

- Each include interface items for the traditional instrument, wherein the interface items of a particular web page include one or more of control items and display items (paragraph [0088]);
- Wherein the control items are user-selectable to send control instructions to the traditional instrument (paragraph [0086]);
- Wherein the display items are configured for use in displaying data received from the traditional instrument (paragraph [0116]).

As per claims 38, 45, 52, 74, Nag discloses a device comprising:

- A first port operable to couple to a network (paragraph [0082]);
- A second port operable to couple to an instrumentation bus, wherein the instrumentation bus is not the Internet (paragraph [0093]);
- A processor (paragraph [0086]);
- Memory coupled to the processor and operable to store program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by the processor to:

Receive an instrument driver from the network (paragraph [0041]);

Store the instrument driver in the memory (paragraph [0045]);

Receive from another device coupled to the network a request to access a traditional instrument coupled to the instrumentation bus, wherein the instrument

driver is required by the device to communicate with the traditional instrument, wherein the traditional instrument does not include inherent Internet capabilities, and wherein the instrumentation bus is not the Internet (paragraphs [0082, 0090-0091, 0093-0094]);

Wherein the instrument driver comprises program instructions which are executable by the processor to:

- Access the traditional instrument via the instrumentation bus in response to said request to access the traditional instrument (paragraph [0099]);
- Receive instrument data sent from the traditional instrument via the second port (paragraph [0105]);

Wherein the program instructions are further executable by the processor to:

- Send the instrument data to the other device via the first port (paragraph [0087]).

As per claims 39, 46, Nag discloses the device of claims 38 and 45, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the processor to provide to the other device a graphical user interface for the traditional instrument, wherein the graphical user interface is executable within the other device to initiate monitor and control functions of the traditional instrument from the other device and to display the received instrument data (paragraph [0135]).

As per claim 40, 47, Nag discloses the device of claims 39 and 46, wherein the graphical user interface comprises one or more web pages displayable by a web browser on the other device (paragraph [0084]).

As per claim 42, Nag further discloses the device of claim 38, wherein, in said accessing the traditional instrument via the instrumentation bus, the program instructions are further executable by the processor to request the instrument data from the traditional instrument (paragraph [0130]).

As per claims 43, 50, Nag discloses the device of claims 38 and 45, wherein the instrumentation bus is one of a GPIB instrumentation bus, a PCI instrumentation bus, a PXI instrumentation bus, and a serial instrumentation bus (paragraph [0093]).

As per claims 44, 51, Nag discloses the device of claim 38 and 45, wherein the network is the Internet (paragraph [0114]).

As per claim 48, Nag discloses the device of claim 45, wherein said scanning detects a plurality of traditional instruments including the traditional instrument coupled to the device via the instrumentation bus, and wherein the program instructions are further executable by the processor to:

- Receive instrument information from each of the detected plurality of traditional instruments via the second port (paragraph [0083]);

- Send the instrument information of each of the plurality of traditional instruments to the second device via the network (paragraph [0097]).

As per claim 49, Nag discloses the device of claim 48 wherein after said detecting the plurality of traditional instruments, the program instructions are further executable by the processor to download an instrument driver for each traditional instrument of the plurality of traditional instruments from the second device to the device via the network (paragraph [0115]).

As per claim 53, Nag discloses the device of claim 52, wherein the program instructions comprise a web browser, and wherein said receiving the instrument information, said displaying the instrument information, said receiving user input selecting the first traditional instrument, and said receiving user input specifying the one or more instructions are performed in one or more web pages displayed by the web browser (paragraph [0125]).

As per claim 54, Nag discloses the device of claim 52, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the processor to:

- Receive instrument data sent from the second device (paragraph [0087]);
- Display the received instrument data (paragraph [0155]);
- Wherein the instrument data is generated by the first traditional instrument on the second device in response to the one or more instructions (paragraph [0166]).

As per claim 55, Nag discloses the device of claim 54, wherein the program instructions comprise a web browser, and wherein the web browser is executable by the processor to display the received instrument data on one or more web pages (paragraph [0114]).

As per claims 56, 65, Nag discloses a system, and carrier medium comprising program instruction comprising:

- A first device coupled to a network sending a request to a second device coupled to the network to access a traditional instrument, wherein the traditional instrument is coupled to the second device via an instrumentation bus, wherein an instrument driver is required by the second device to communicate with the traditional instrument, wherein the second device is not configured with the instrument driver, and wherein the traditional instrument does not include inherent Internet capabilities, wherein the instrumentation bus is not the Internet (paragraphs [0082, 0090-0091, 0093-0094]);
- The second device receiving from the network an instrument driver which is usable by the second device to communicate with the traditional instrument (paragraphs [0041, 0045]);
- The instrument server receiving the request to access the traditional instrument (paragraph [0039]);
- The instrument server accessing the traditional instrument via the instrumentation bus in response to said request to access the traditional instrument (paragraphs [0093, 0094-0096, 0106]);

- The traditional instrument sending instrument data to the server device via the instrumentation bus in response to the instrument server accessing the traditional instrument (paragraph [0095]);
- The instrument server receiving the instrument data sent from the traditional instrument via the instrumentation bus (paragraph [0093]);
- The instrument server sending the instrument data to the first device via the network (paragraph [0110]).

As per claims 57 and 67, Nag discloses the system and carrier medium of claims 56 and 65, wherein the first program instructions are further executable within the first device to:

- Receive the requests sent by the second program instructions executing within the second device (paragraph [0175]);
- Direct the first traditional instrument to perform the received requests (paragraph [0180]);
- Receive instrument data generated by the first traditional instrument performing one of more of the received requests (paragraph [0195]);
- Send the received instrument data to the second device via the network (paragraphs [0255]).

As per claim 58, Nag does not explicitly disclose the system of claim 57, wherein the instrument server accessing the traditional instrument comprises:

- The instrument server accessing an instrument driver for the traditional instrument (paragraph [0259]);
- The instrument driver accessing the first instrument via the instrumentation bus in response to the instrument server accessing the instrument driver (paragraph [0257]).

As per claim 61, Nag discloses the system of claim 60, wherein the second program instructions comprise a web browser, and wherein the web browser is executable within the second device to display the received instrument data on one or more web pages, and wherein the first program instructions are operable to provide the one or more web pages to the web browser in response to said selecting the first traditional instrument (paragraph [0114])

As per claim 64, Nag discloses the system of claim 56, wherein the network is the Internet (paragraph [0114]).

As per claim 66, Nag further discloses the carrier medium of claim 65, further comprising displaying on the first device a graphical user interface to the traditional instrument coupled to the second device, wherein the graphical user interface is operable by the user to remotely control functionality of the traditional instrument from the second device (paragraph [0086]).

As per claim 69, Nag discloses the computer-accessible memory medium of claim 68, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

receiving user input on the second device, wherein the user input specifies the first traditional instrument (paragraph [0182]);

sending a request to access the traditional instrument is generated in response to user input on the first device (paragraph [0175]).

As per claim 70, Nag discloses a method for using a traditional instrument with a network, comprising:

- A first device detecting the traditional instrument, wherein the first device is coupled to the traditional instrument, wherein the first device is not coupled to the traditional instrument via the Internet, wherein an instrument driver is required by the first device to communicate with the traditional instrument, wherein the first device is not configured with the instrument driver, and wherein the first device is coupled to the network (paragraph [0110]).
- Automatically receiving, from the network, an instrument driver which is associated with the traditional instrument, wherein the instrument driver comprises program instructions which are executable by the first device to communicate with the traditional instrument (paragraph [0103]);
- After said receiving, communicating with the traditional instrument, wherein said communicating comprises using the instrument driver (paragraph [0141]).

As per claim 71, Nag disclose the method of claim 70 wherein said automatically receiving comprises downloading the instrument driver from a second device coupled to the network (paragraph [0141]).

As per claim 72, Nag discloses the method of claim 70, further comprising:

- Receiving from the network a request for information associated with the instrument (paragraph [0137]);
- Wherein said communication with the traditional instrument is performed in response to said receiving from the network request (paragraph [0145]);
- The method further comprising transmitting a response to the network (paragraph [0188]).

As per claim 73, Nag discloses the method of claim 72, wherein the request comprises a request for a measurement (paragraph [0260]).

As per claims 75-76, 79-80, Nag discloses the device of claim 74, wherein the program instruction are further executable by the processor to:

- Receive, from a second device coupled to the network, a request to access the first traditional instrument (paragraph [0095]).
- Wherein the first instrument driver comprises program instructions which are executable by the processor to:

Access the first traditional instrument through the instrumentation bus (paragraph [0093]).

As per claims 77 and 81, Nag discloses the device of claims 76 and 80, wherein in said transmitting the data to the network, the program instructions are further executable by the processor to transmit a web page to the network, wherein the web page comprises the data (paragraph [0114]).

As per claim 78, Nag discloses the device of claim 74, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the processor to:

- Detect a second traditional instrument coupled to the instrumentation bus (paragraph [0092, 0093]).
- Receive, from the network, a second instrument driver which is associated with the second traditional instrument, wherein the second instrument driver comprises program instructions which are executable by the processor to communicate and/or control the second traditional instrument (paragraph [0045]);
- Store the second instrument driver in the memory (paragraph [0041]).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara N. Burgess whose telephone number is (571) 272-3996. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Ettinene can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Barbara N Burgess
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

July 6, 2006


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100